



Bees and Honey

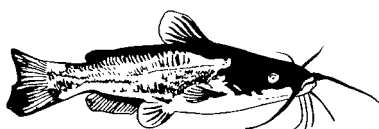
Honey production from Louisiana producers with five or more colonies during 2003 totaled 3.06 million pounds, 29 percent below the 2002 level. Producers harvested honey from 34,000 colonies. Production per colony averaged 90 pounds.

Prices from the 2003 honey crop averaged \$1.24 per pound, up \$0.08 from 2002. Prices were based on retail sales by producers and sales to private processors and co-ops. Louisiana producers had 275,000 pounds of honey in stock on December 15, 2003, compared with 347,000 pounds on hand the previous year.

Number of Colonies, Production, Stocks and Value: Louisiana, 2000-2003

Year	Number of Colonies	Average Yield per Colony	Production	Stocks Dec 15 th	Average Price per Pound	Value of Production
	---1,000---	---Pounds---	-----1,000 Pounds-----		---Cents---	---\$1,000---
2000	43	94	4,042	1,334	52.0	2,102
2001	45	106	4,770	572	60.0	2,862
2002	35	124	4,340	347	116.0	5,034
2003	34	90	3,060	275	124.0	3,794

Catfish



Louisiana continues to rank fourth in the nation in foodsize catfish production, water surface acres and total sales of catfish. Mississippi leads the nation in foodsize catfish production, followed by Alabama and Arkansas.

There were 48 commercial catfish operations in the state on January 1, 2004, down from 57 on January 1, 2003. These farms operated 8,800 water acres, down 1,100 acres from the same time in 2003.

Total sales of catfish in Louisiana for the year 2003 were \$14.5 million, down 6 percent from sales in 2002. Roughly 97 percent of this amount (\$14.1 million) was from sales of foodsize catfish. Farmers sold 26.1 million pounds of foodsize catfish in 2003 compared to 26.6 million pounds in 2002. Sales in 2003 averaged 54 cents per pound, down 4 cents from 2002.

Catfish data come from the January 1, 2004, Catfish Grower's Survey. This survey is conducted every January; a similar survey is conducted every July.